

In 2015 I moved to Oregon, Portland, from Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. I have the privilege of being born in the US and being a citizen. I identify as Mexican American, I grew up in Mexico, went to college there and did my masters. I moved here without knowing anyone and without a lot of money. I did not have a job or a community. I did not know how hard this new phase in my life would be. At the beginning I was excited, but very scared as I learned how hard it was to pay rent, bills and get a job in my field, not yet I was ready for a new life. Soon, I discovered I was passionate to support my Latinx community as I learned more about all the system barriers, racism and inequalities we face every day. I had a very hard time finding myself here and making Oregon feel like home. Once again, I am a citizen, speak English and I now have an amazing community that offers me support and makes me feel welcomed here.

In 2018 I started working at Familias en Accion a non profit whose mission is to straighten the health of latino families in Oregon. My boss told me about the IDA program and I thought I WOULD never buy a house here, I would hear horror stories of the amount of money I would need to make to save for a downpayment and I thought I can't do that, no matter how hard I work. But I trusted my boss and applied for an IDA with Hacienda CDC. Today, after being in the Program for two years, learning about financial education, saving money, taking classes and working with my financial couch, I sit in my new home office and I am so happy to share my success story. I am proud of myself and I feel like I belong here, I couldn't be more grateful for this program and everyone that works hard to offer this kind of support to our communities. Today, I know that I am investing in myself, I have the opportunity to have a life here, Oregon finally feels like home. I wish to share this opportunity and program with all of my community! Thank you.